

ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 NEWS

Summer 2016

Chief's Corner

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. This is one of the most effective ways we have to communicate with you about important issues affecting emergency services.

Emergency medical service accounted for 90% of all calls in 2015. EMS is the emergency service our community relies on most, and Asotin County Fire District 1 is asking voters to renew the EMS levy at the same rate during the August election. There is more information in this newsletter, or on our web site at www.acfd1.org.

Fire District 1 has the lowest levy rate for fire protection and EMS of any provider in the county. This is possible because of the dedicated men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. This unique staffing model saves our taxpayers approximately \$1,000,000 annually, and we are grateful for their service.

The threat of wildland fire in our area is extremely high this year. A wet spring caused grasses and other vegetation to grow quickly. Record high temperatures

in early summer have dried everything out making it a dangerous fuel source. Please take time to create a defensible space around your home and other structures on your property. You can learn how to do so at www.firewise.org.

On a final note, we're making good progress with the new fire station on Appleside Boulevard. We recently completed a grant application to fund the needed renovations, and should hear back as to whether it was accepted this fall. I have received several questions from the community about the project and have included an update in this newsletter for that reason.

On behalf of all of us at Fire District 1, thank you for the opportunity to serve. Please feel free to contact me personally with questions or concerns at nhardin@acfd1.org or (509) 758-5181.

Sincerely,

NOEL HARDIN
Fire Chief



Station Update

Fire District 1 purchased property with an existing building on Appleside Boulevard to be a future fire station. The fire district has needed a larger facility for some time to improve emergency response capabilities and provide additional space for firefighters, training, apparatus, and equipment. When completed, we anticipate this station will meet the needs of our community for 60 years.

The fire district was able to purchase the property without raising taxes, and is trying to fund the needed building renovations with a Community Development Block Grant. In May, the grant application was submitted for consideration. Midway through this process, the federal government reduced the maximum grant award amount

from \$1 million to \$750,000. This will impact our project, and, as we have said all along, voter-approved funding might be necessary. We will report back as

soon as we know if our grant application was accepted sometime in September.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is committed to keeping costs down and minimizing impacts for taxpayers with this project. In the meantime, the facility is rented by an area church and used for fire district training and meeting space.





ASOTIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

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Expanding Communications

Asotin County Fire District 1 is taking steps to improve communication with its taxpayers.

Our new website is a resource of information about your local fire district: www.acfd1.org. And, please "Like" our



new Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1

to receive regular updates!

EMS Levy Renewal on August Ballot

Calls for Emergency Medical Service have increased almost 38% for Fire District 1 since voters first approved funding for the program in 2011. In 2015, 90% of all calls were EMS-related.

Fire District 1 is asking voters to renew the EMS levy during the August 2nd Primary Election at the same amount of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would continue to pay \$100 per year or approximately \$8.33 per month for a 24-hour paramedic response. The EMS levy pays for emergency personnel, training and

certifications, ambulances, maintenance, medical equipment, first aid supplies, and equipment replacement.

Fire District 1 provides Advanced Life Support with paramedics through a cost-effective partnership with the city of Lewiston. This is the highest level of pre-hospital, emergency care available for the public. It also provides Basic Life Support with volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Volunteers donate their time to the community, which saves taxpayers approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

The fire district also is asking voters to remove the expiration date for the levy to provide a stable funding source for the most widely-used emergency service. This will save money on election costs, which can be as much as \$25,000 every time the fire district needs to be on the ballot. This money would better serve the community by funding life-saving equipment or emergency personnel.

More information about the EMS levy renewal is available on Fire District 1's web site at www.acfd1.org. Fire Chief Noel Hardin is also available to answer questions personally at (509) 758-5181 or nhardin@acfd1.org.

